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*Home Going Services*  
*for*  
*Bernice Bass*



Wednesday  
January 26, 2000  
Eleven o'clock in the morning

**WHIGHAM FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL**  
580 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, New Jersey

Elder James Howard, Officiating

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# Order of Service

Musical Prelude Organist

Processional Clergy and Family

Opening Hymn

Scripture Readings *Old Testament*  
*New Testament*

Prayer

Solo Carrie Smith

Remarks *The Honorable Donald Payne*  
*Congressman, 10<sup>th</sup> District*  
*The Honorable Donald Bradley*  
*City Council President*  
*The Honorable Sharpe James*  
*Mayor, City of Newark*

Solo Carrie Smith

Acknowledgments and Obituary

Solo

Eulogy Elder James Howard

Recessional

Interment Glendale Cemetery  
Bloomfield, New Jersey



## *In Appreciation*

*We are grateful to all who have helped to share with us in this time of sorrow. Words can never express our deep sense of gratitude for your prayers, cards, and many kind deeds.*  
*Thank you and God bless you.*

## Obituary

*Bernice Bass*, daughter of the late Rev. Theare B. Bass and the late Mrs. Willie Mae Tolbert Bass, was born in Belleville, New Jersey on June 19, 1926. She departed this life, at her residence, on January 18, 2000.

A resident of Newark for most of her life, Bernice attended Newark Schools and was employed as director of the Administrative Division of the United States Customs Service for the Newark Area-Region II, until her retirement in 1983.

Bernice was best know for promoting gospel music, and although she never sang a note she was one of the most influential names in gospel music and organized a singing group that produced several top gospel artists. She promoted gospel music on radio shows that she hosted and was a gospel music historian who knew every major name in the genre.

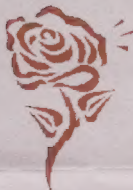
Miss Bass also had a penchant for politics which made her "News and Views Show" a mix of gospel music, community announcements and political chatter and one of WNJR's most popular shows. Over the years, she had interviewed just about everyone in the forefront of the civil rights movement, including Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X.

Ms. Bass was truly admired by her beloved friends and strangers as an outspoken and diligent community organizer, activist and radio personality. She was the conscience of Newark and her wit and biting criticism of local and national public officials knew no bounds. She challenged all of them to live up to their oaths of office and will truly be missed for that.

Bernice Bass was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. Theare B. Basss and Willie Mae Tolbert Bass; a son, Jackie Bass; and her brother, Theare B. Bass, Jr. She leaves to mourn, cousins Peter Harris of Blakely, Georgia, Willie Mae Tolbert Coklow of Blakely, Georgia and Nancy Miller of Jacksonville, Florida and a host of other relatives and many friends.

*To the Family and Friends  
of Bernice Bass:*

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am a diamond glint on the snow.*



*I am the sunlight on ripened  
grain,  
I am the gentle Autumn's  
rain.*

*When you wake in the  
morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight,  
I am the soft star shine at night.  
Do not stand by my grave and cry,  
I am not there, I did not die.*



*Services entrusted to:*

**WHIGHAM FUNERAL HOME**  
*Carolyn M. Whigham, President/Owner*  
580 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, New Jersey

**Program by: Serenity Printing Services (908) 351-4298**